***Podospora curvicolla* (G. Winter) Niessl 1883 – AEB 1394 (= PDD 124549)**
Species Fungorum current name: *Pseudoechria curvicolla* (G. Winter) Y. Marín, A.N. Mill. & Stchigel

Substrate: hare (*Lepus europaeus*) dung

Collected: 29 November 2024; **Incubated in a moist chamber:** 2 December 2024

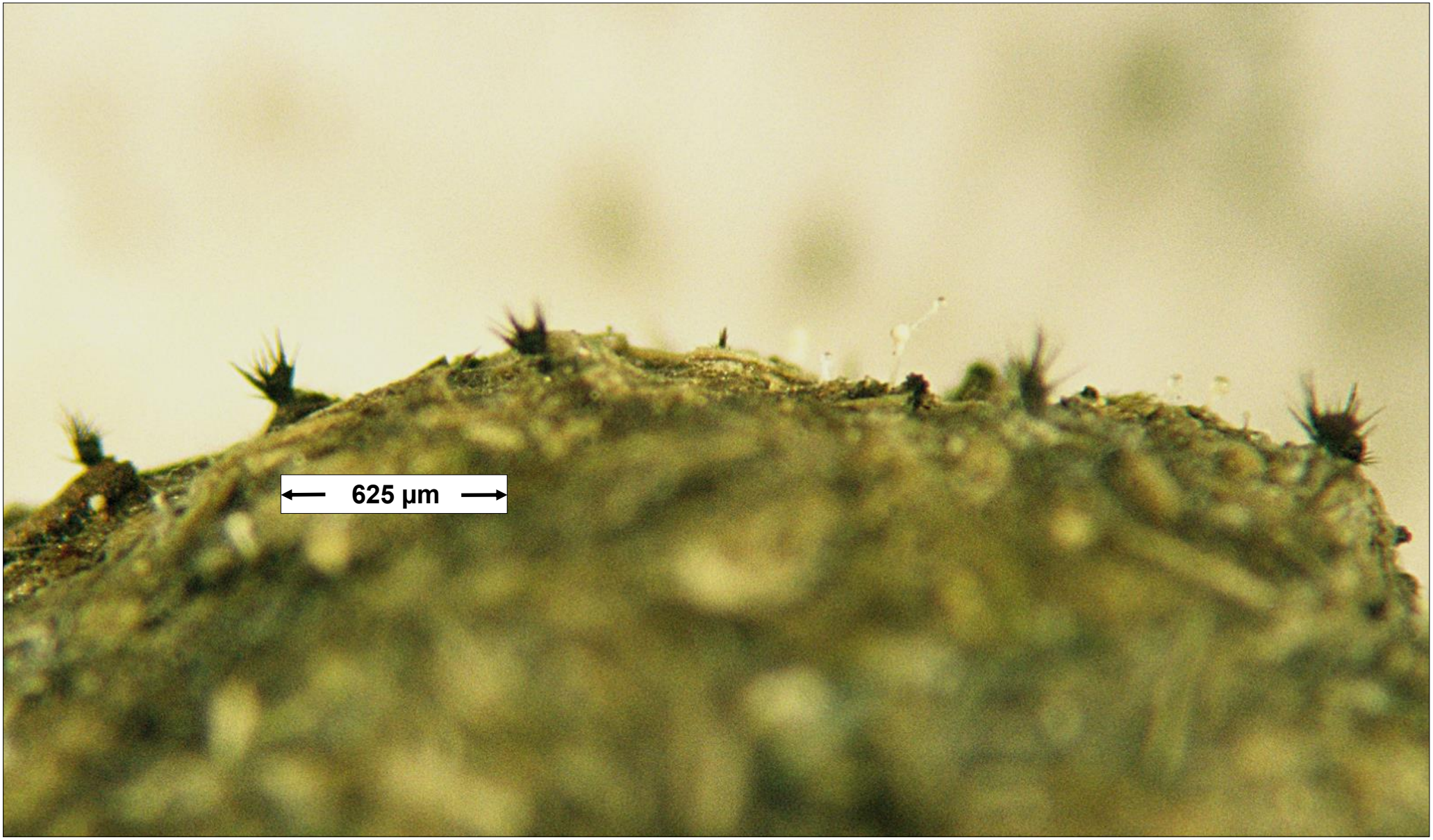
Collection site: NZTM E1744964, N5422591, near Hawkin's Hill Radar Dome (Wellington South Coast) in pasture/scrub

Collector: Ian Flux; **Identifier:** Dan Mahoney

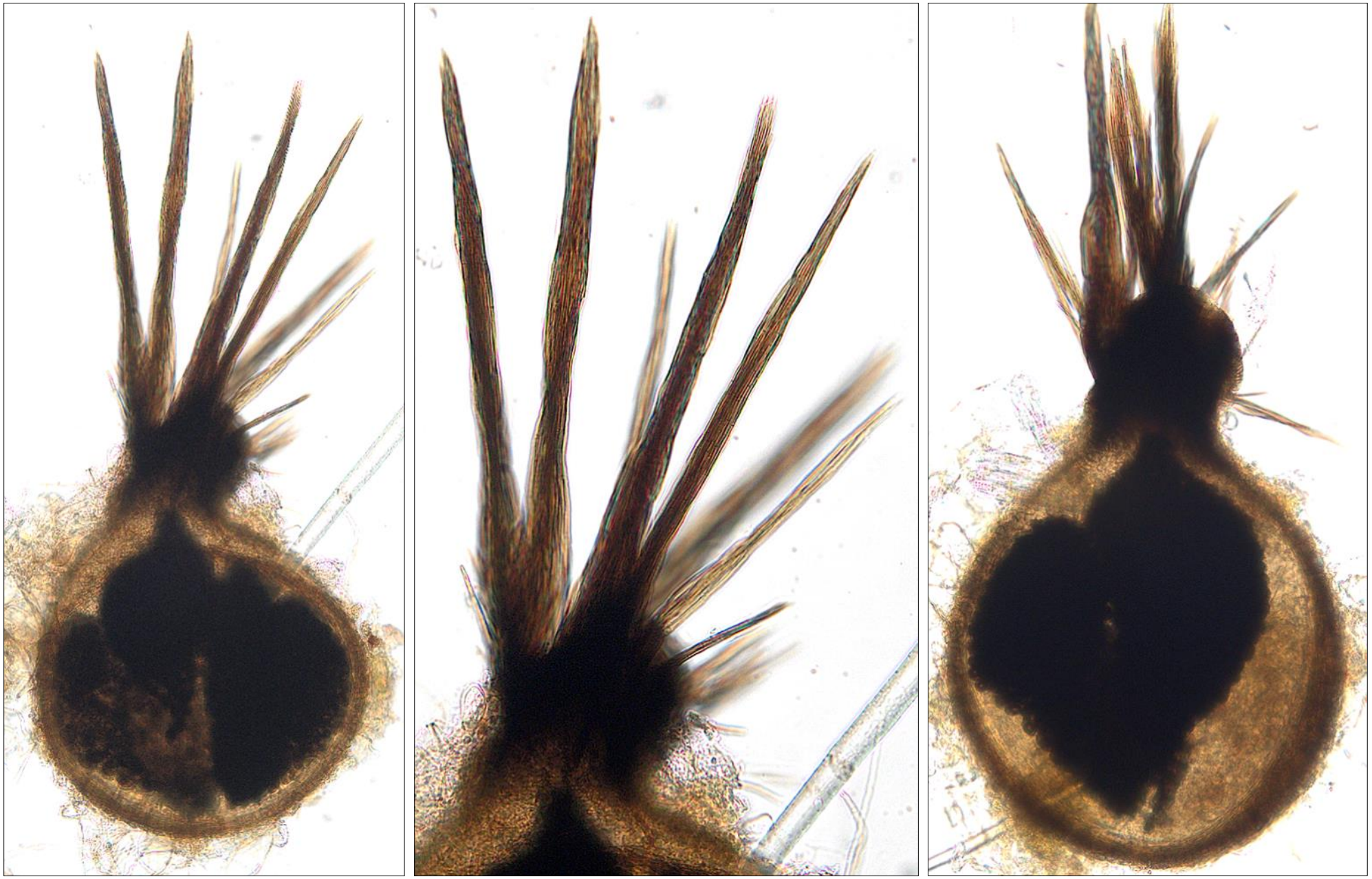
Voucher materials: three dried hare pellets accompanied by 2 Shear's mounting fluid (SMF) slide mounts; in-situ photo of perithecia on the moist-chamber-incubated hare dung using a Zeiss SV 11 Stereo-zoom dissecting microscope and a MC80 camera; perithecium, ascus and ascospore photos taken using an Olympus BX51 compound scope and a DP28 camera.

Comments: *Podospora curvicolla,* although reasonably common in New Zealand, is absent from Mycoportal and rarely seen in Australia (see Bell, A. 2005. An illustrated guide to the coprophilous Ascomycetes of Australia). Including PDD 124549 presented here, 8 PDD records (of 10 named *Podospora curvicolla* online) are further documented with pdfs in the datastore (see the external link under each PDD record). The 8 PDD records with pdfs are listed below in ascending chronological order from 1988 to 2024. For keys, illustrations and descriptions of *Podospora curvicolla* and other *Podospora* species with multispored asci the reader is referred to Lundqvist N. 1972. Nordic Sordariaceae S. LAT. and Mirza J.H. & Cain R.F. 1969. Revision of the genus *Podospora*.
Although varying somewhat in rigid pointed agglutinated hair tufts on the neck (size, # and neck location), perithecial size, # of asci, etc., 6 of the 8 have very similar ascospores. PDD 73626 and PDD 120020, however, have larger ascospores & perithecia. Otherwise they fit the species. 73626 has pigmented ascospore body cells (19–)20–24(–25) × 13–15(–17) µm while 120020 has body cells 20–23 × 13–15 µm. Ascospore pedicels in these 2 collections are also larger: 11–13(–15) × 3–4 µm in 73626 and 10–12.5 × 3 µm in 120020. Among the other Podosporas with multispored asci, *Podospora longicollis* has similar-sized ascospores and these 2 PDD collections may in time be included there. More comparative information with future collections is required.

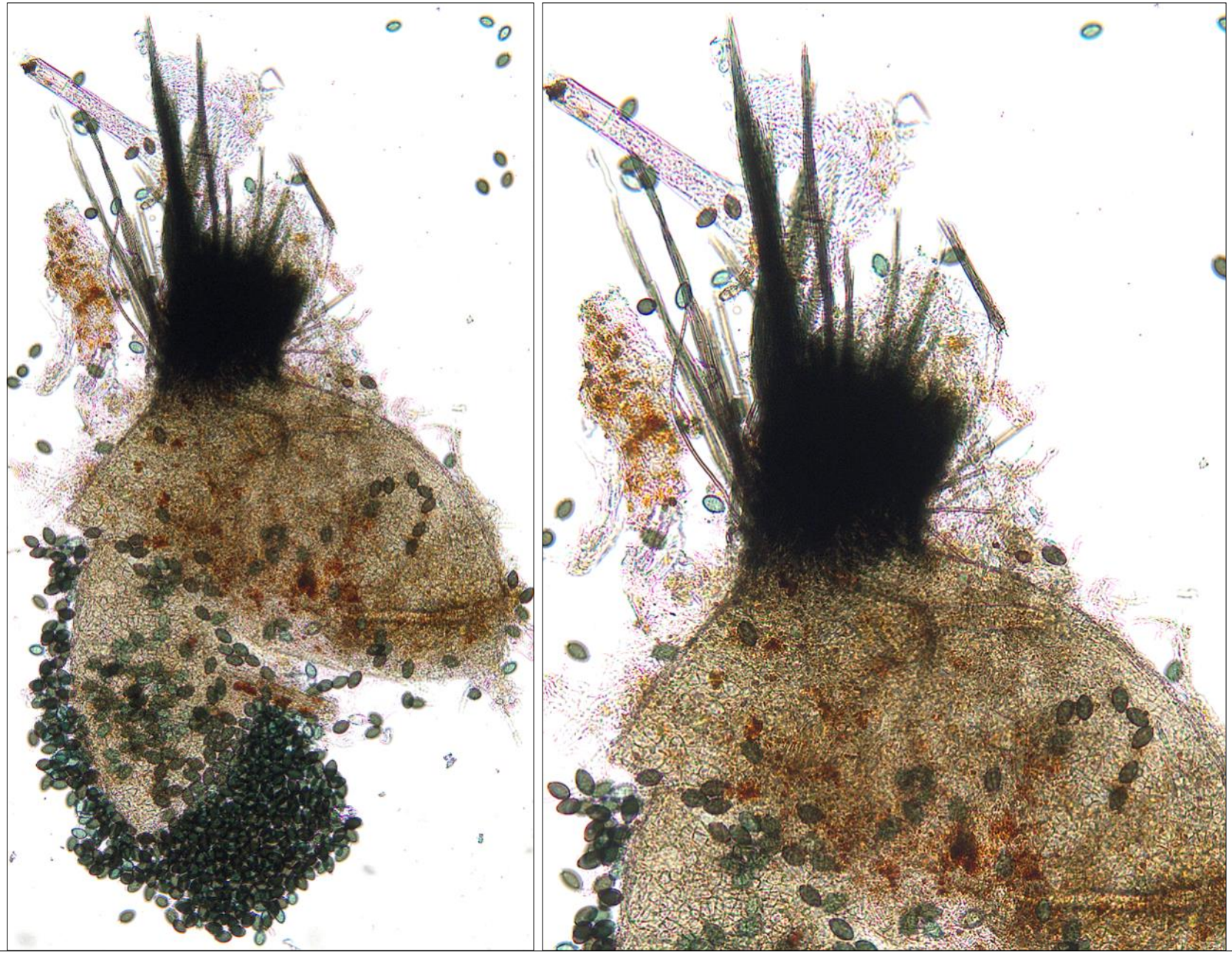
PDD 73626 goat/sheep? NZ
PDD 73691 European rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* NZ
PDD 77955 guinea pig *Cavia porcellus* Australia
PDD 77980 European rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* NZ
PDD 120013 European rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* NZ
PDD 120019 European rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* NZ
PDD 120020 brushtail possum *Trichosurus vulpecula* NZ
PDD 124549 hare *Lepus europaeus* NZ



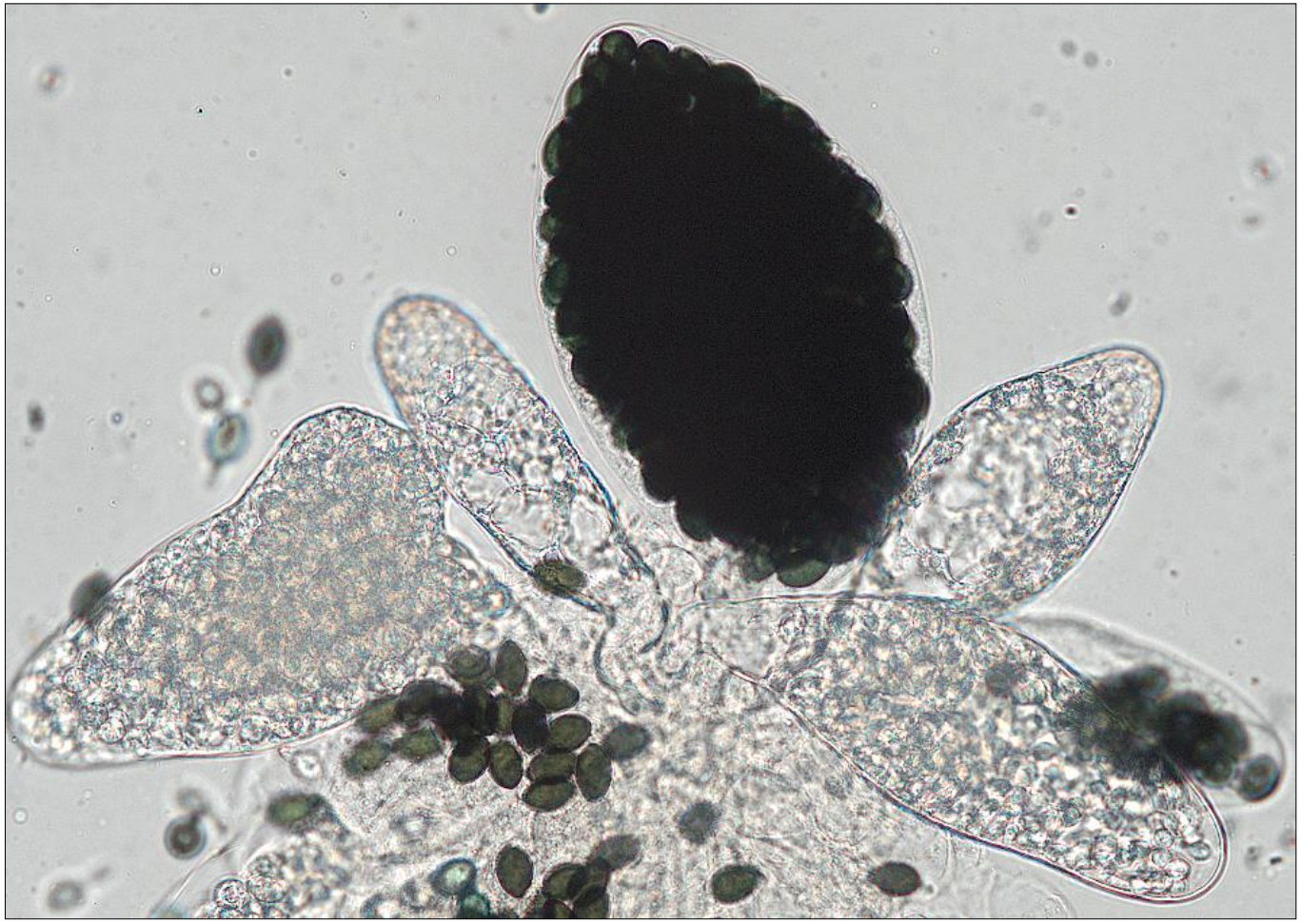
AEB 1394. 23 Dec. 2024 – in-situ view of several perithecia along the side of moist-chamber-incubating hare dung.



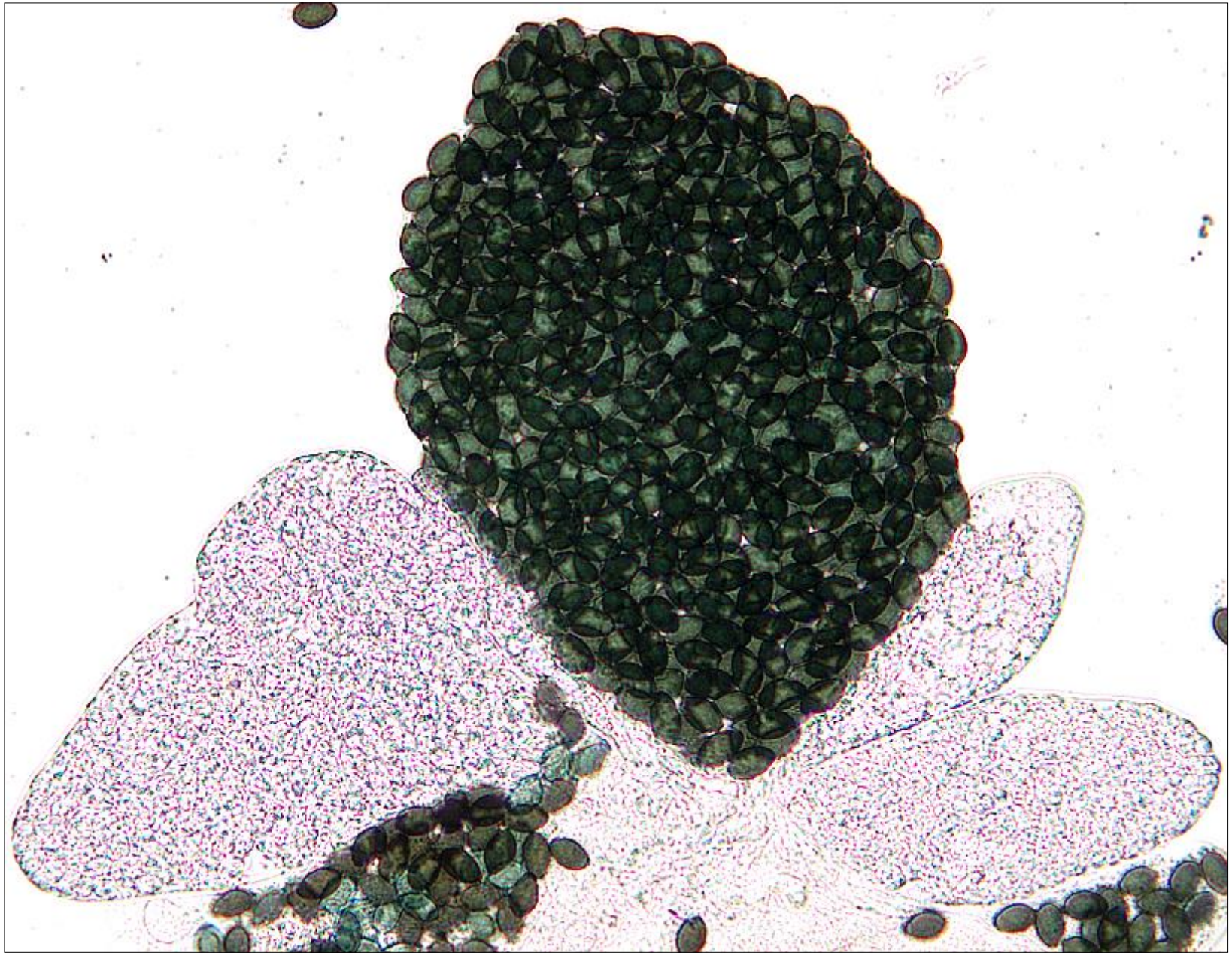
AEB 1394. Fresh perithecia in SMF (6 Dec. 2024). Left 2, same perithecium – venter 315 × 320 µm, neck 100 µm long, longest tuft of rigid agglutinated neck hairs 400 µm. Right photo – a different perithecium on the same slide.



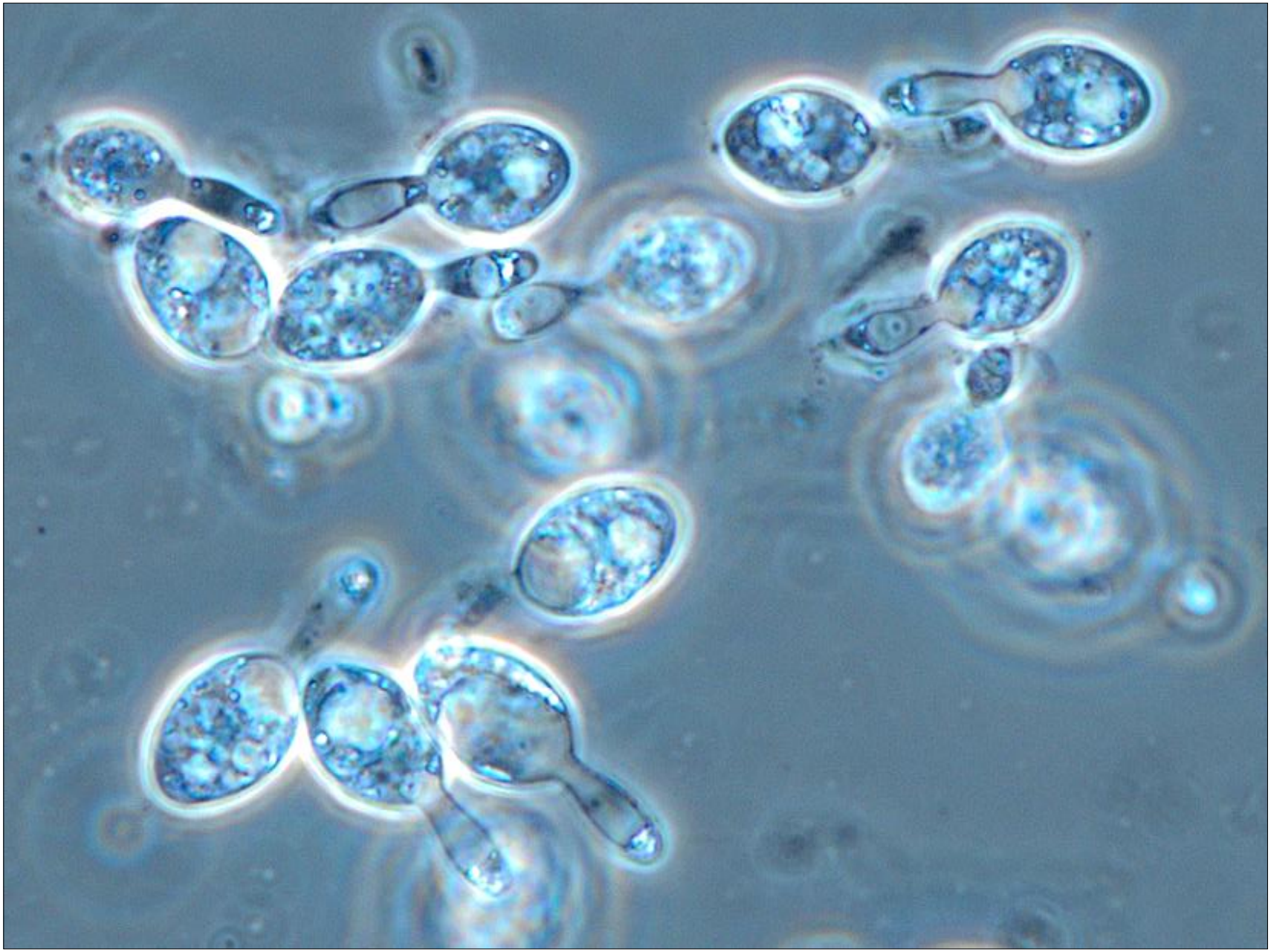
AEB 1394. Fresh perithecia in water mount (6 Dec. 2024). Both photos: same perithecium. Note broken open ascus & free ascospores (left photo) and rigid agglutinated neck hairs & textura angularis venter peridium (both photos).



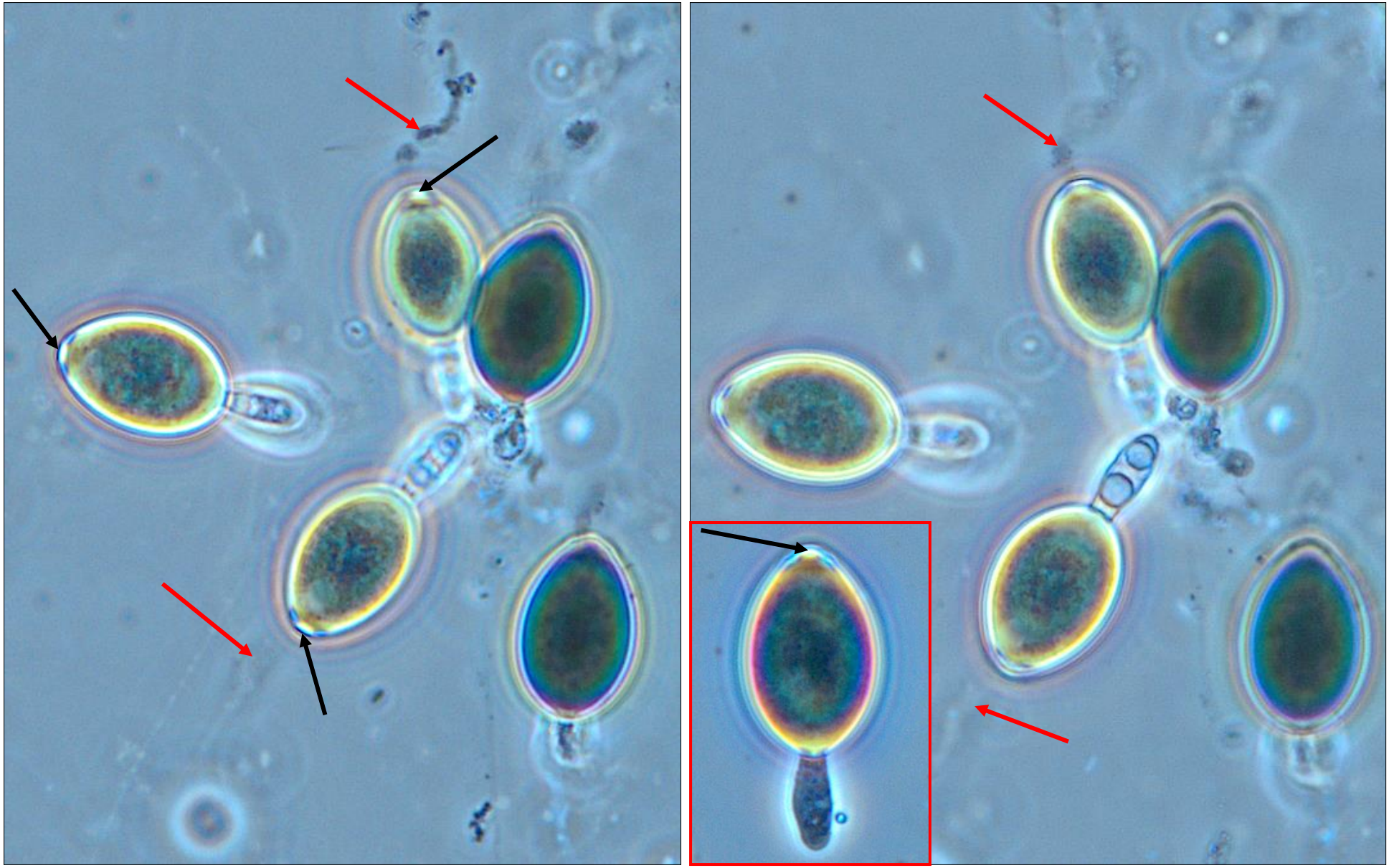
AEB 1394. Left photo: fresh perithecium in water mount (23 Dec. 2024). Note the rigid agglutinated neck hairs & textura angularis venter peridium. Right photo: squashed hymenium in water mt. (6 Dec. 2024) showing various stages of ascus/ascospore development. The fully mature ascus has roughly 256 ascospores (see the next page for an over-exposure that allows a better view of its numerous ascospores).



AEB 1394. An over-exposure of the right-hand photo on the previous page. This allows a clearer view of the roughly 256 ascospores in the mature ascus.



AEB 1394. A squashed hymenium in water mt. (6 Dec. 2024) showing various freed immature ascospores using phase microscopy and the X100 objective. No cross wall is clearly evident between future body cells & pedicels.



AEB 1394. Here, in another water mt. (6 Dec. 2024) are seen freed mature (or nearly so) spores. Both photos are the same with slightly different focuses; the right photo has a red-bordered complete body cell/pedicel insert (pedicel 8 × 3 µm). Pigmented body cells mostly 16–18 × 10–11 µm (note their apical germ pores (black-arrowed). Single caudae at body cell & pedicel apices are fugacious & seen clearly only in immature spores. In this photo caudae are seen with difficulty (red-arrowed).